

We claim:

1. A method of preventing, inhibiting or reducing fetal loss comprising administering an effective amount of an OX-2 protein or fragment thereof, or a nucleic acid molecule encoding an OX-2 protein or fragment thereof to an animal in need thereof.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the OX-2 protein is a human OX-2 protein or a fragment thereof.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the OX-2 protein is a soluble fusion protein.

4. A method according to claim 3 wherein the soluble fusion protein comprises an OX-2 protein or fragment thereof linked to an immunoglobulin Fc region.

5. A method according to claim 4 wherein the OX-2 fragment comprises an extracellular domain of an OX-2 protein.

6. A method of inducing fetal loss comprising administering an effective amount of an agent that inhibits an OX-2 protein to an animal in need thereof.

7. A method according to claim 6 wherein the agent is a molecule that binds the OX-2 protein.

8. A method according to claim 7 wherein the molecule is an antibody.

9. A method according to claim 6 wherein the agent is an antisense oligonucleotide that is complimentary to a nucleic acid sequence from an OX-2 gene.

5 10. A pharmaceutical composition for use in preventing, inhibiting or reducing fetal loss comprising an OX-2 protein in admixture suitable diluent or carrier.

10 11. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 wherein the OX-2 protein is a soluble fusion protein.

12. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 wherein the OX-2 protein is a human OX-2 protein or a fragment thereof.

15 13. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11 wherein the soluble fusion protein comprises an OX-2 protein or fragment thereof linked to an immunoglobulin Fc region.

20 14. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13 wherein the OX-2 fragment comprises an extracellular domain of an OX-2 protein.

25 15. A pharmaceutical composition for use in inducing immune suppression comprising an effective amount of an agent that inhibits OX-2 in admixture with a suitable diluent or carrier.

16. A composition according to claim 15 wherein the agent is a molecule that binds the OX-2 protein.

30 17. A composition according to claim 16 wherein the molecule is an antibody.

18. A composition according to claim 14 wherein the agent is an antisense oligonucleotide that is complimentary to a nucleic acid sequence from an OX-2 gene.

18. A composition according to claim 14 wherein the agent is an antisense oligonucleotide that is complimentary to a nucleic acid sequence from an OX-2 gene.